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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /115 W
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P R 011545Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8794
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3084

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CI, PINT, SOCI
SUBJ: POSSIBLE CHARGES AGAINST UP LEADERS

REF: SANTIAGO 3015

1. SUMMARY. POSSIBILITY OF CHARGING UP LEADERS WITH VARIOUS COMMON CRIMES SUCH AS MISUSE OF GOVT FUNDS WAS PUBLICLY RAISED IN MAJOR EL MERCURIO STORY MAY 31 ACCOMPANIED BY RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALMEYDA ET AL. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO "MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SOURCES" QUOTED IN FRONT PAGE STORY EL MERCURIO, COUNCIL FOR DEFENSE OF STATE IS NOW STUDYING RESULTS OF PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION PERFORMED BY CONTROLLER GENERAL'S OFFICE TO DETERMINE IF SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE EXISTS TO PROSECUTE FORMER ALLENDE CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHERS FORMERLY DETAINED ON DAWSON ISLAND FOR SUCH CRIMES AS EMBEZZLEMENT AND MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY. STORY NOTED THAT A TRADITIONAL FUNCTION OF COUNCIL, A GOVT BODY, IS PROSECUTION OF GOVT EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE "INJURED THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THE NATION."

3. MERCURIO STORY ALSO PUBLISHED RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA, CARLOS JORQUERA, AND DR. ARTURO JIRON, LATTER TWO
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SURROUNDED BY FAMILY MEMBERS. STORY CLAIMED THAT FORMER

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DAWSON GROUP "HAVE ENJOYED FULL FACILITIES, AS SHOWN BY THE
PHOTOGRAPHS, TO RECEIVE VISITS FROM THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR FRIENDS,
AND SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED FOREIGN NEWSMEN."

4. COMENT. POSSIBILITY OF SUCH CHARGES HAS BEEN QUIETLY DIS-
CUSSED FOR MONTHS, BUT MERCURIO STORY IS FIRST IN OUR RECOL-
LECTION TO GIVE MAJOR ATTENTION TO THIS ANGLE. STORY GIVES NO
INDICATION WHETHER ALL OR ONLY PART OF DAWSON GROUP WOULD BE
CHARGED, WHETHER SUCH

ECONOMIC CHARGES WOULD PRECLUDE CHARGES FOR OTHER ALLEGED CRIMES,
WHEN DECISION WHETHER TO PROSECUTE WILL BE MADE, OR IN WHAT
COURT ANY EVENTUAL CHARGES WILL BE FILED ALTHOUGH
IMPLICATION IS THAT IT WOULD BE CIVIL COURT AND NOT MILITARY
TRIBUNAL.
PHOTOGRAPHS OF SMILING DETAINEES AND HAPPY FAMILY MEMBERS ALSO
UNUSUAL AND APPEARS TO BE ATTEMPT TO COUNTER CRITICISM VOICED
PRIVATELY BY WIVES OF SOME DETAINEES. WHETHER VISITING PRIVILEGES
AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF DETENTION HAVE REALLY BEEN LIBERALIZED IN
LAST FEW DAYS IS UNCERTAIN. ALTHOUGH STORY PRESENTS ASPECTS
SUGGESTING IT IS RESULT OF INVESTIGATION BY AN ENTERPRISING
REPORTER, PICTURES SUGGEST OFFICIAL INSPIRATION POSSIBLY
AIMED AT DAMPENING RUMORS THAT DAWSON ISLANDERS MISTREATED
AND THAT TRIALS IMMINENT BEFORE MILITARY COURTS.
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